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CPYRGHT

It's the Devil to Pay for Security

Reviewed by Dorrie Deaneport
THE CARE OF DEVILS. By
Sylvia Press. Beacon. \$1.95.

THE CARE OF DEVILS
is the fictional case history of
a security investigation. It
takes place in Washington, in
the immediate past.

At the moment when Simon
is a conscientious, efficient em-
ployee in an intelligence
agency. She has weaknesses
and prejudices, but she is on
the whole a sensitive, intelli-
gent person.

By the end of the novel, El-
len Simon has been brain-

washed. With the memory of
an early love affair tarnished,
her trust in people tempora-
rily perverted, she is a pa-
thetic figure.

Nonetheless, she has the
courage to face her situation,
and she will soon learn to com-
bat it. She has come to under-
stand what "guilt by associa-
tion" means.

If Miss Press, herself a
former intelligence officer, is
to be considered as a novelist,
she has not, thus far, the
depth of a first-rate one. All
of the characters, apart from
Ellen, are sketchily, even im-
patiently drawn. Their conver-
sations, perhaps by the au-
thor's intention, is banality
itself.

But Miss Press has the first
requirement of a novelist, the
courage to write the truth.
She has, further, the courage
to believe that fear and ugliness
are not, cannot be the
whole truth.